



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, April 25, 2003

Contact: Karen Szczepanski  
(517) 373-2420

## Garcia Moves Senate to Fully Fund Fire Protection Grants *Calls on Legislature to restore funding to 1977 statutory formula amounts*

LANSING – Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Chair, Senator Valde Garcia this week called on the Legislature to fully fund fire protection grants for local governments in the 2003-04 Department of Consumer and Industry Services budget.

“I am pleased to see the fire protection grants restored to the levels once promised to local governments by the state,” Garcia, R-Howell, said. “The cost of keeping our properties safe, and more importantly protecting human life, should remain a top priority in Michigan.”

The Department of Consumer and Industry Services budget, Senate 286, was passed by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on April 24. The bill proposes to restore funding to local governments for providing fire protection for state buildings in their jurisdiction.

The increased fire protection grants would be funded through legislation not yet passed by the Legislature. The bills are proposing to raise certain fees to fully fund the grants under the 1977 statutory formula, which amounts to nearly \$16 million. The fire protection grants are currently funded at \$3.7 million, down from \$7.4 million in the 2001-2002 budget.

“In a time when every community is feeling the affects of budget shortfalls, additional revenues for fire protection would be a significant achievement,” Garcia said.

The Consumer and Industry Services budget was approved by the subcommittee for \$59.1 million, a 7.6 percent increase over last year’s budget with the increases coming from the fire protection grants and the restoration of the Appellate Commission of \$1.3 million to fully fund the programs.

SB 286 will now be considered by the full Senate.

-- 30 --